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# Review of The Children's and Young Adult Literature Handbook: A Research and Reference Guide

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## **THE CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE HANDBOOK: A RESEARCH AND REFERENCE GUIDE**

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THE CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE HANDBOOK: A RESEARCH AND REFERENCE GUIDE. John T. Gillespie. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2005, 393 pp., ISBN 1-56308-949-1.

When John Gillespie was asked to update *Children's Literature: A Guide to Information Sources* by Margaret Denman-West, he was quite agreeable to the task. But, as he began gathering the sources to be included, he found a totally different book emerging. He rearranged the chapters and added others. The result is a book that is nearly twice the size of Denman-West's bibliography and is broader in scope. This new book would be useful to any librarians who deal with children's and young adult literature. It can be used as a selection guide and a collection development aid. Well-written, concise annotations of 25-1,250 words included for every entry are especially useful.

Gillespie's organization of the materials begins with bibliographic sources of many types. The chapter outline that is included at the beginning of each chapter is a helpful feature of the handbook. The chapter on background sources and histories includes material about American sources and sources from other English-speaking countries. General periodicals are also included in this chapter. Next are retrospective bibliographies which are subdivided by age group, audience, genre, and format. These include bibliographies on graphic novels and pop-up books, as well as gender-related bibliographies, and books for both reluctant and gifted readers. Gillespie then moves on to a chapter dealing with reviewing tools found in periodicals and annuals and a list of children's magazines. Bibliographies that are related to curriculum, and then those on multicultural topics which include specific cultures and English as a second language are also included.

A chapter on literary awards and prizes goes much further than just including sources that deal with the Newbery and Caldecott awards. He also includes international awards, awards

given by other countries, and regional awards. Web addresses are given for most of these awards.

By chapter seven, the focus changes from bibliographies to other types of information about children's literature. This chapter deals with promoting the use of children's books through book talks, storytelling, and other programs. Information on writing, illustrating, and publishing children's books is also an important part of this chapter.

A chapter on sources for biographical information on authors and illustrators will be helpful to researchers. Gillespie has also incorporated a listing of professional organizations, publishers, and booksellers. All of these include addresses, phone numbers, and websites in addition to the brief annotation. Researchers will also appreciate the listing of outstanding special collections of children's books. This includes both historical and international collections. The last chapter includes a selective list of websites and listservs. Name, title, and subject indexes complete the handbook.

I was impressed with the breadth of the selections in this book. The selections are also quite current. This book would be useful to librarians for selection, but this is also a great resource to use to find the best bibliographies or sources on any given topic. I would highly recommend the book to any librarian who works with children's literature.

*Kathyanne W. Dobda*  
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